

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising
 - (a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence that encodes 5 an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 74 through 137;
 - (b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 through 73;
 - (c) a nucleic acid molecule that selectively hybridizes to the nucleic acid molecule of (a) or (b); or
 - 10 (d) a nucleic acid molecule having at least 60% sequence identity to the nucleic acid molecule of (a) or (b).
2. The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a cDNA.
- 15 3. The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is genomic DNA.
4. The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid 20 molecule is a mammalian nucleic acid molecule.
5. The nucleic acid molecule according to claim 4, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is a human nucleic acid molecule.
- 25 6. A method for determining the presence of a colon specific nucleic acid (CSNA) in a sample, comprising the steps of:
 - (a) contacting the sample with the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 under conditions in which the nucleic acid molecule will selectively hybridize to a colon specific nucleic acid; and
 - 30 (b) detecting hybridization of the nucleic acid molecule to a CSNA in the sample, wherein the detection of the hybridization indicates the presence of a CSNA in the sample.

7. A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.

8. A host cell comprising the vector according to claim 7.

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9. A method for producing a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, comprising the steps of (a) providing a host cell comprising the nucleic acid molecule operably linked to one or more expression control sequences, and (b) incubating the host cell under conditions in which the polypeptide is produced.

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10. A polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1.

11. An isolated polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence with at least 60% sequence identity to of SEQ ID NO: 74 through 137; or
(b) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 through 73.

12. An antibody or fragment thereof that specifically binds to the polypeptide according to claim 11.

20 13. A method for determining the presence of a colon specific protein in a sample, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting the sample with the antibody according to claim 12 under conditions in which the antibody will selectively bind to the colon specific protein; and
(b) detecting binding of the antibody to a colon specific protein in the sample, wherein the detection of binding indicates the presence of a colon specific protein in the sample.

30 14. A method for diagnosing and monitoring the presence and metastases of colon cancer in a patient, comprising the steps of:

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- (a) determining an amount of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or a polypeptide of claim 6 in a sample of a patient; and
- (b) comparing the amount of the determined nucleic acid molecule or the polypeptide in the sample of the patient to the amount of the colon specific marker in a normal control; wherein a difference in the amount of the nucleic acid molecule or the polypeptide in the sample compared to the amount of the nucleic acid molecule or the polypeptide in the normal control is associated with the presence of colon cancer.

15. A kit for detecting a risk of cancer or presence of cancer in a patient, said kit comprising a means for determining the presence the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or a polypeptide of claim 6 in a sample of a patient.

16. A method of treating a patient with colon cancer, comprising the step of administering a composition according to claim 12 to a patient in need thereof, wherein said administration induces an immune response against the colon cancer cell expressing the nucleic acid molecule or polypeptide.

17. A vaccine comprising the polypeptide or the nucleic acid encoding the polypeptide of claim 11.